

The Mayor's Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
April 13, 2004

1. The Mayor's Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee (MVAC) convened on April 13, 2004, in Room 802 of the Municipal Building. The meeting was called to order at approximately 8:25 AM by the President, COL(R) Thom Tuckey. Members in attendance were:

LTC(R) Jim Daskal
COL(R) Quin Herlik
COL(R) William Mannel
COL(R) Thom Tuckey

CWO Jeffrey Davis
Mr. Earnest Johnson
Mr. Terry Smith

2. Minutes. There were no minutes to approve, because there had been insufficient attendees at the scheduled March meeting and the meeting had been cancelled.

3. Old Business.

a. Veterans Groups Dinner. The dinner hosted by the Mayor on February 18, 2004, was considered to be a success, and the MVAC began to plan the next event of this type. LTC(R) Daskal was to begin the planning for this event, which was envisioned as occurring near Veterans Day 2004. It was noted that invitations to this event should probably include the ladies' auxiliaries of the veteran groups and the spouses of the veteran group leaders.

b. CSRA Alliance for Fort Gordon. COL(R) Tuckey reported that the alliance was currently pushing to increase the number of people who have contributed money to its efforts (rather than trying to increase the amount of money contributed, *per se*). He also reported that the alliance had recently received the report of a study for which it had contracted, on the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats potentially affecting the Fort Gordon's future. He said other studies were underway concerning housing, education, cost of living, spousal employment, transportation, fire and police support, quality of life, and encroachment.

c. CARES Commission. The final report of the Veterans Administration's Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) Commission still had not been finally approved.

4. New Business.

a. Greenjacket Event for Formerly Deployed Servicemembers. COL(R) Tuckey described the preliminary planning for an event that was being planned to recognize and honor all servicemembers who have been deployed from this region. The event was to occur prior to a home game of the Augusta Greenjackets, on August 28, 2004. Three thousand general admission tickets would be distributed among bearing a military ID, whether active duty, National Guard, or Reserve. It was being planned that the event would include a formation on the field, representation from Fort Gordon's senior leadership, a performance by the Signal Corps Band, and a fireworks display.

b. Website Update. It was reported that LTC(R) Daskal was working with Mr. Justin Pauly of the Mayor's office, to update the MVAC website.

c. Exemplary VA Therapy Programs. It was reported that the Augusta VA Medical Center has an excellent program for physical and occupational therapy for paralyzed or paraplegic veterans. COL(R) Tuckey said he would pursue getting press coverage of this program.

d. Potential Resources for Marine Reserve Units. It was observed that the Marine Reserves could potentially benefit from the use of Fort Gordon's ranges(e.g., a pistol range) and other training facilities and programs (e.g., training in nuclear, biological, and chemical warfare procedures). CWO Davis said he would look further into this. It was suggested that it would be beneficial for the post to provide an orientation to acquaint National Guard and Reserve commanders with the training and range capabilities available on the installation.

5. Other Discussion.

a. Gordon Highway Cleanup. It was reported that on March 12, 2004, a cleanup of Gordon Highway was sponsored by Augusta Clean and Beautiful and Augusta Pride and Progress, as a way of beautifying a major entrance corridor into Augusta and showing appreciation for the importance of Fort Gordon. Approximately 100 volunteers had participated, and the highway was cleaned up from Regency Mall west to the entrance of the Georgia Medical Prison, beyond the Gordon Highway entrances to Fort Gordon.

b. AUSA Briefing. BG Hicks had recently presented a detailed briefing about Fort Gordon at a wine-and-cheese event for local members of AUSA. Approximately 100 had been in attendance.

c. Visit by TRADOC Commander. GEN Byrnes, the Commander of the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, had recently visited Fort Gordon and Augusta, including a visit to Fort Discovery. The CSRA Alliance for Fort Gordon had hosted a reception for GEN Byrnes at the Pinnacle Club, and among the attendees were Senator Max Burns and Representative Charlie Norwood.

d. Visit by Senator Chambliss. Senator Saxby Chambliss had recently had a long visit to Fort Gordon, with emphasis on the Gordon Regional Security Operations Center.

6. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:30 AM. The next meeting was scheduled for May 11, 2004, at 8:20 AM, in Room 802 of the Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted, May 10, 2004:

Terence Smith
Secretary
Military & Veterans Affairs Committee

CF: Mayor Young
COL Henderson, Garrison Commander, Fort Gordon
Ms. Pat Buchholz, Office of the Garrison Commander, Fort Gordon
Each active MVAC member